

Officer Emilio F. Miyares

April 24, 1959 ~ November 6, 1986



Emilio F. Miyares was born on April 24, 1959, in Havana, Cuba, to Emidio and Ana Miyares. He was the oldest brother to Leonardo. The Miyares family moved to the United States from Cuba when Emilio was seven years old.

Emilio attended school in Hartford, Connecticut., before moving to Hialeah. He then attended public schools in Hialeah and graduated from Hialeah High School in 1977. He married his high school sweetheart Teresa Dania Iglesia on August 19, 1977. In 1983, Emilio received an Associate in Arts degree from Miami Dade Community College.

In 1980, Emilio was hired by the Hialeah Police Department as a Civilian Complaint Officer, (911 operator) in the Communications Section. Emilio furthered his career in Law Enforcement and graduated from the Police Academy on May 13, 1983.

Officer Miyares initially served in the Patrol Division and was transferred to the Narcotics Unit in December of 1985. In June the following year, he was proud to serve as a Motorcycle Officer. Miyares was described by his supervisors and colleagues as "enthusiastic", "energetic", "dedicated to his job", "the epitome of courtesy", and a "devoted family man".

On November 6, 1986, an employee at the Dollar Store in Palm Springs Mall told a customer to flag down the police. The clerk was suspicious of two customers in the store and employees feared that a robbery was imminent. Hialeah Police Officers Emilio Miyares and Felix Quintela were working a traffic detail in front of the mall, when they were flagged down and told of the potential problem. However, by the time the officers entered the store the two men were gone. The officers began to search for the men, spotting them at the rear of the mall. As the officers approached the suspects and began to question them, one suspect, later identified as Samuel Rivera, 22, suddenly ran from the officers. Officer Miyares gave chase to Samuel Rivera and the second subject, Alberto Rivera (Samuel's brother), was chased by Officer Quintela.

The pursuit of Samuel Rivera ended when he ran into a closed hallway at the end of the mall. In front of 20 to 30 witnesses, Officer Miyares approached Rivera (with his gun holstered) and grabbed him in a "bear hug" telling him to calm down. A struggle ensued when Rivera gained control of Officer Miyares' hand gun. Rivera got up as Officer Miyares was still on his knees with his hand in the air saying "Esperate, Esperate" (i.e., "Wait!, Wait!"). Rivera did not wait, he fired five shots at the kneeling and defenseless Officer Miyares. Three bullets hit the isolated policeman. The third and fatal shot that hit Officer Miyares went "through his heart" and was fired after the officer was lying flat on the floor, defenseless. It was later described as an "execution" shot.

Officer Emilio Miyares is survived by wife Teresa Dania Miyares, son Emilio Jr, daughter Jessica, parents Emidio & Ana, and brother Leonardo.

His family will always remember him as the "Light of Our Life."

